

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT:

The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians

Edited by **P. SEYMOUR SMITH, A.L.A.**, Hornsey Public Libraries, N.8.

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EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

We wish to give members this final reminder that the **Annual Meeting** will be held at Bristol on June 5th, where all who attend will enjoy one of the best programmes ever arranged for this Association. Through the generous hospitality of the Bristol authorities, members will incur no expense beyond the train fare of 14/9 return, and we would urge our younger members particularly to show their appreciation of the civic generosity of Bristol by attending in large numbers. Full details of the programme of visits appeared in the last issue of the journal.

It is essential that all money for tickets should reach Mr. R. D. Hilton Smith, The Ashburton Library, Ashburton Park Croydon, by **Saturday, May 25th**. Will divisional secretaries and members organising parties from independent libraries, also any members travelling to Bristol not attached to a party please notify Mr. Hilton Smith, by the same date, of the name and library address of every member who will be going.

Hendon.—The appointments for the new Public Library at Hendon have rightly attracted much attention. It is very gratifying to the members of this Association to observe that the Hendon Libraries Committee have not only decided to pay adequate salaries, but have appointed only fully qualified members of the profession.

We offer Mr. Hilton Smith, the recently-appointed Deputy, our warmest congratulations on behalf of the Association which he has served so ably and so successfully. His is a very important post, and we feel sure he will considerably enhance his already enviable reputation in the profession.

The new Central Library and Art Gallery Building in Sheffield is to be erected on the site now occupied by the two existing Central Library buildings, which are to be demolished. The site is rectangular, with a frontage of 200 feet and a depth of 100, three sides with open street frontages. It is probable that the City Council will later acquire the block of property on the east side for future extension, thus making a complete island site, some 300 by 100 feet.

The estimated cost of the structure is £95,000, to which Alderman J. G. Graves, a former Lord Mayor, has contributed £30,000. The Finance Committee of the City Council has approved the expenditure of the remaining sum. The site is already in possession of the Libraries Committee. The cost of furniture and fittings has to be added, and the total expenditure will be approximately £130,000. Building operations will probably commence in April, 1930.

The proposed building has been designed by the City Architect on draft plans submitted by the Chief Librarian. The plan allows for basement and two floors for the library, and the top floor for an Art Gallery.

The planning of the Library is as follows : *Basement Floor* : This semi-basement will receive a fair amount of natural light, and will consist mainly of a double tiered book stack with a minimum shelving capacity of 400,000 volumes, with strong rooms, janitors' room, store rooms, and heating and fuel chambers. A newspaper and popular magazine room is also on this floor, with entrance at the side of the building.

Ground Floor : Entrance by a short flight of interior steps into a spacious main hall, with large recessed areas for book exhibition purposes. The Central Lending Library (100 ft. by 76 feet) occupies the centre of this floor, and extends to the rear of the building, being side lighted from the rear and having a large centre dome in the well of the building. Book accommodation is approximately 60,000. Passenger lifts to all floors are provided near the entrance stairway. On the left of the building are the Commercial Library, and the Science and Technology Library, each being 2,500 feet super. An electric book lift serves the staff counter from the basement

and runs through to the Reference Library service above. On the right of the Lending Library are Magazine Room and Children's Library, to both of which access is gained at the side of the building.

First Floor: The Public Departments here are main Reference Reading Hall (104 ft. by 42 ft.), the Sheffield Library, and Students' Room. The right hand side of the building is occupied by the range of Administrative Departments, with the following rooms: Committee, Chief Librarian, Deputy, Typists, General Clerical, Administrative Bookbinding, School Libraries and Extension Services, Cataloguing, Union Catalogue, Book Delivery, Working Book Store, and two spare rooms. These are all adjacent and are grouped to allow book progression by processes through the departmental chain.

Mezzanine Floor: This covers the whole of the Administrative Departments and contains Art Gallery store and staff rooms, and library staff rooms, kitchens, etc.

Top Floor: Devoted entirely to Art Gallery.

Staff lavatories and cloak rooms are provided in all floors.

At the rear of the building there is a staff entrance and a goods entrance, with loading platform and large electric lift serving all floors.

The Norwich Public Libraries Committee have received a magnificent bequest from the late Mr. Walter Rye, an eminent Norfolk antiquary, who also achieved fame in his younger days as an athlete, and who founded the Thames Hare and Hounds in December, 1867.

Mr. Rye had been a co-opted member of the Norwich Public Libraries Committee since November, 1904, and throughout his long period of service on that Committee he constantly enriched the Libraries by gifts of manuscripts, printed books and a large number of prints, portraits and maps from his own unique collection.

During his lifetime his gifts of Norfolk manuscripts to the Library were 55 in number. His bequest comprises 81 volumes of manuscripts of the greatest historical value, 255 volumes of printed books, and a large collection of letters and papers on antiquarian subjects. The memoir of Mr. Walter Rye and the bibliography of his writings, which were published in the April number of the "Readers' Guide," will be reprinted and published shortly with a catalogue of all the manuscripts in the Walter Rye Collection.

AN ANNOTATED SUMMARY of the Law, Legislation and Financial Administration mainly of the Public Libraries of South Africa.

Compiled by PERCY FREER,
South African Public Library.

ABBREVIATIONS: A.—Act; A.O.—Office of the Administrator; C.—Cape; C.P.—C. Province; C.T.—Cape Town; G.—Government; G.N.—G. Notice; M.—Municipality; N.—Natal; O.—Ordinance; O.F.S.—Orange Free State; O.R.C.—Orange River Colony; P.—Province or Provincial; P.C.—P. Council; P.G.—P. Gazette; S.R.—Southern Rhodesia; T.—Transvaal; U.—Union.

In an earlier article¹ I said, writing of South African library legislation: "It is hoped that more detailed information may soon be elsewhere available." I might well have uttered the further devout wish that it would then emanate from another's hand. For I confess that this aspect of librarianship is to me the least attractive. However, since the bulk of the material was assembled and already arranged in part, I had little hesitation in undertaking the task. And there were other reasons to prompt this decision. In the first place I felt it due to those officials of South Africa who have most willingly helped me to collect this material. Single-handed I could neither have avoided half the pitfalls nor have made nearly so complete a summary. Secondly, the difficulties encountered and admitted on all sides convinced me that its publication would serve a useful purpose. Finally, this is perhaps the time to put on record the prevailing conditions, for it may be a result of the present visit of Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Pitt that the library system of the country will undergo some transformation in the course of the next few years.

(*See Table, pages 122—123.*)

COGNATE LEGISLATION.

ARCHIVES.—Act No. 9 of 1922 (U.).

Act to make provision for the custody and control of the public archives of the Union.

DEEDS REGISTRIES.—Act No. 13 of 1918 (U.).

Act to consolidate and amend the Laws in force in the Union relating to the registration of deeds.

Act No. 15 of 1922 (U.).

(Deeds Registries Act, 1918, Amendment Act, 1922).

Act to amend sections *three* and *eight* of Act 13 of 1918.

(1) "Before and After; or, a contribution to the scanty literature on the Public Libraries of South Africa." "Library Assistant," October, 1928.

NEWSPAPERS.—Act No. 8, 1859 (C.).

To repeal the Ordinance No. 60, 1829, entitled Ordinance for "Preventing the Mischiefs arising from Printing and Publishing Newspapers and Papers of a like nature by Persons unknown," and to make further provision in the Premises.*

s. 2 (Printer's name and abode, and place where printed, to be inserted in every book or paper).

Act No. 29, 1884 (C.).

To provide for the Proper Registration of Newspapers.*

s. 1 (Newspapers to be registered in office of Civil Commissioner with address of publisher, etc.).

Law No. 9, 1858 (N.).

s. 6 (Name of printer, &c.).

O. 49, 1902 (T.).

s. 1 (2) (. . . There shall be printed the . . . address at which . . . published and the . . . name of the proprietor).

POST OFFICE (Newspapers).—Act No. 10, 1911 (U.).

To consolidate and amend the laws . . . relating to the Post Office.

What is a Newspaper?

17. (1) (a) That it be wholly printed and published within the Union;
- (b) That it be published at intervals of not more than one month;
- (d) That it be registered as a newspaper with the Postmaster-General.

Registration of Newspapers with Postmaster-General.

18. (1) The Postmaster-General shall cause a register to be kept of publications coming within the requirements of the last preceding section and the proprietor, printer, or publisher of any such publication may, upon payment of the prescribed fee, register the same as a newspaper at such time in each year, and in such manner, and with such particulars, as the Postmaster-General may direct.

PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.—Act No. 12, 1918 (U.):

Electoral Act, 1918.

s. 91 (Bills . . . pamphlets . . . to bear publisher's name and address).

*Extended by Proclamation No. 212 of 1890 to Native Territories: Transkei, Tembuland and Griqualand East.

1 AREA.	2 Administration, Management and Control.	3 Bye-laws, Rules and Regulations.
THE UNION ...	(Chap. LI, 12 (1)a; (2nd Sched. 4) A. 10-'13 (U.). (Financial Relations)	—
CAPE PROVINCE	<i>Ibid.</i> (Provincial Administration). I.	(194, 63) P.O. 10-'12 (C). (Municipalities)
Cape Town (South African Public Library)	A. 33-'93 (C.). (Management); (2nd Sched. 4) A. 10-'13 (U.). (Admin. <i>not</i> entrusted to Province; A. 7-'21 (U.). (Grey Collection); A. 9-'24 (U.). (Pensions)	G.N.—No. 938, 1900
East London ...	A. 12-'02 (C.) (Transfer Act)	—
Kimberley ...	—	—
Port Elizabeth ...	A. 20-'64 (C.) (Trustees)	—
NATAL ...	(2nd Sched. 4) A. 10-'13 (U.). (Provincial Administration). I.	—
Durban ...	A. 14-'10 (N.). (Municipal P.L.)	(32) P.O. 19-'20 (N.)
Pietermaritzburg ...	—	—
ORANGE FREE STATE	(2nd Sched. 4) A. 10-'13 (U.). (Provincial Administration). I.	(189, 26) P.O. 11-'25 (O.F.S.)
Bloemfontein ...	—	—
TRANSVAAL ...	(2nd Sched. 4) A. 10-'13 (U.). (Provincial Administration). I.; (79: 44, 2) P.O. 11-'26 (T.).	—
Johannesburg ...	—	P.G. 13.8.24 (T.)
Pretoria (State Library)	(2nd Sched. 4) A. 10-'13 (U.). (Admin. <i>not</i> entrusted to Province)	—
SOUTHERN RHODESIA	—	(108, 31) G.N. 101-'97 (S.R.) (Municipalities)
Bulawayo ...	—	—
Salisbury ...	O. 7-'02 (S.R.). (Management) O. 7-'05 (S.R.). („ Amend.)	—

(24) Municipal Government of Pretoria. Proclamation No. 7 of 1902, s. 19 (25) (T.) appears never to have been acted upon. It was merely a temporary provision after the Boer War. It did not at any time affect the State Library. (Incidentally Pretoria now has a Municipal Employees' Library).

4 Copyright.	5 Establishment and Maintenance.	6 Exemption from Rates.	7 Grants.
(150) A. 9-'16 (U.) II. —	— G.N. 878 (7.11.99) (£ for £); G.N. 508 (17 5.04) (Amend.)	— (137, 4) P.O. 10-'12 (C.). (Lands and Buildings)	— (206) P.O. 10-'12 (C.). (Council)
<i>Ibid.</i>	—	—	(27) P.O. 19-'13 (C.). (Council); A. 6-'21 (U.). (Council); see also <i>Appendix</i> .
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	A. (2) 30-'84 (C.). (Boro' Council).
—	—	—	A. (137) 27-'97 (C). (Municipal Council)
—	(280, c) P.O. 19-'24 (N.)	(3, g) A. 15-'10 (N.) (Property)	—
—	A. 14-'10 (N.)	—	A. 14-'10 (N.)
<i>Ibid.</i>	—	see <i>Appendix</i> (105, I, iii.)	—
—	(Chap. lii) Laws-'01 (O.R.C.) (£ for £); (137, 4) P.O. 11-'25 (O.F.S.)	P.O. 11-'25 (O.F.S.) (Town & Water)	(130, b, i) P.O. 11-'25 (O.F.S.)
<i>Ibid.</i>	—	—	—
—	G.N. 92 (29.3.02) (£ for £) (79: 44, I, a) P.O. 11-'26 (T.)	VII.	(Chap. L, 5, c, ii) A. 25-'07 (T.); (79, 15, a, ii) P.O. 11-'26 (T.); (Sched. 1) P.O. 13-'27 (T.)
<i>Ibid.</i>	(24)	(14)	See <i>Appendix</i> and (10)
—	—	(28) O. 2-'94 (S.R.). (Sanitary Board)	(7, 3, c) O. 17-'16 (S.R.) (25)
O. 6-'18 (S.R.)	—	(2, 2) O. 22-'01 (S.R.). (Municipal Law)	—
<i>Ibid.</i>	—	—	—
—	—	—	—

(25) To amend the law relating to municipalities. Additional powers to make payments: "for the support and maintenance of any institution the object of which is to promote the welfare, education or instruction of the community of ratepayers or their children."

PUBLIC HEALTH (Infected things [Books?]).

Act No. 36 of 1919 (U.).

Act to make Provision for the Public Health.²³*Penalty for exposure of infected persons or things.*

30. Any person who :

- (a) While knowingly suffering from any notifiable infectious disease, or such other infectious disease as the Minister may declare by notice in the Gazette to be a disease for the purposes of this section, wilfully or negligently exposes himself in such manner as to be likely or liable to spread such disease, in any street, public place, *public building*, shop, inn, hotel, church or other place used, frequented or occupied in common by persons other than the members of the family or household to which such infected person belongs; or
- (b) Being in charge of any person and knowing that such person is so suffering, so exposes such sufferer; or
- (c) Knowingly gives, *lends*, sells, pawns, transmits, removes or exposes, or sends to or permits to be washed or exposed in any public wash-house or washing-place, or in any laundry or other place at which articles are washed, cleansed or dyed, without previous effective disinfection to the satisfaction of the local authority and in accordance with any regulations in force in the district, any clothing, bedding, rags, *or other articles or things of any kind whatsoever* which have been exposed to or are contaminated with the infection of any such disease;
- (d) . . . shall be guilty of an offence: Provided that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any person transmitting, with proper precautions and in accordance with the instructions of the local authority, any bedding, clothing or other article or thing for the purpose of having the same disinfected.

(See Appendix, pages 126—127, and Summary, page 128).

(23) In the above-mentioned article (1) I said: "An extension of the Public Health Act to recognise books as potential carriers of disease is desirable." . . . That the italicised words in the text may, however, embrace books according to legal interpretation of the corresponding Public Health Act, 1875, 38 & 39, V. c. 55, s. 126 (1-3) and Public Health (London) Act, 1891, s. 68 (1, a.b.c. 2) is evident from a letter in the "Library World": vol. 2, 1900, p. 198. The 1907 Amendment Act is by no means ambiguous (7 Ed. vii. c. 53. s. 59).

ANNOTATIONS.

I. UNION.—Administration, etc.

Financial Relations Act. No. 10 of 1913.

"The provisions of this Act shall be those other provisions made by Parliament which are contemplated in the last paragraph of section 118 of the *South Africa Act*, 1909. Chapter LI.: Transfer of Revenue and Functions from the Union to the Provinces . . . 12 (1) Additional matters may be entrusted to a Province subject to the following provisions, *i.e.*: (a) If it be a matter specified in the Second Schedule of this Act . . . *Second Schedule*: Matters, the control whereof and the power to legislate in respect whereof may be transferred . . . to the Province . . . 4. The administration of libraries . . . except the South African Library . . . and the Government Library . . . Pretoria."

Thus specifically excluded from the operations of the Act, the South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, remained to constitute the National Library of South Africa.

II. COPYRIGHT.

Act to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to . . . Copyright, No. 9 of 1916, sect. 150 (1) "The publishers of every book first published in the Union . . . shall, within one month . . . deliver . . . in the best manner in which such book is issued, one copy to the Trustees of the British Museum,² and one copy each to . . . the South African Public Library, Cape Town, the Library of the Natal Society, Pietermaritzburg, the State Library, Pretoria, and the Bloemfontein Public Library . . ."

(Registration, *ib.*, sect. 152-60).

III. GRANTS.

Free services to Grant-in-Aid Institutions: "During the year under review [1926-27] . . . grant-in-aid institutions, in addition to being given a grant of money, were rendered services free of charge by the Departments indicated."⁵ Also,

(2) "Under the Books Registry Act of 1888, 'Four . . . copies of the whole of every book which shall be printed or lithographed in this Colony [Cape of Good Hope] . . . shall . . . be delivered free of any charge . . . to such officer as the Governor shall . . . from time to time appoint . . . one of such copies shall be delivered to the Librarian of the S.A. Public Library, and another to the Grahamstown Public Library, and the remaining copies shall be disposed of as the Governor shall direct.' It is interesting to note that by the courtesy of successive Governors a copy of every book received under this Act is sent to the British Museum."

[DYER, B.L. *Public Library Systems*. Kimberley, 1903, p. 41].

(3) Public Works Department and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (A.O. 872/12). The value of the services rendered varies considerably from year to year.

Libraries	Year	Source	Amount	Authority	Special Purposes
NATAL. VI. Durban (13)	1927-8 " " 1928-9	P.C. P.C. { Borough Fund Rates M. M. P.C.	200 100 7467	N.P. 2-1927 (12) The Librarian Annual Report	Juvenile Section. Via. —
Pietermaritzburg	1927-8	M. P.C.	250 (50) 100	Mr. Rooke { (22)	Public Reading Room Remission of Charges Juvenile Section. Via. —
ORANGE FREE STATE. Bloemfontein	VI. 1927	M.	625	Annual Report Year Book (6)	—
Harrismith	" "	M.	310	"	—
TRANSVAAL. VIII. Germiston	1927-8	P.C. (T.) M. P.C.	1500 £. 700 1260 200	P.O. 13-'27 (T.) The Librarian "	School Libraries —
ohannesburg	1928	M.	10,124	The Librarian	Country Book Distribu- tion (16) —

[NOTE.—The amounts enclosed in round brackets are not made over, naturally. The Roman numerals in the first and last columns refer to the Annotation paragraphs.]

(6) For details respecting Provincial Grants I am largely indebted to the Official Year Book of the Union of South Africa. No. 9, Pretoria. 1928, pp. 194-6, but although a very recent publication, its figures are only for the year 1926. For certain Municipal grants I have drawn upon Mr. Rooke's valuable section in the Official South African Municipal Year Book, 1927-28, pp. 487-94, as well as upon the various Annual Reports. The figures in the "Amount" column of the Appendix do not represent total income: in no instance are Subscriptions included.

(13) Durban, although a Municipal Library, is not a "free" library in the same sense that Johannesburg is; a small subscription is still exacted from members, and not merely a returnable deposit.

(18) 1927-£4185; 1928-£2,610. [Annual Reports.]

(19) These libraries in receipt of Provincial grants in excess of the £135 maximum must be classed as the "classified" category, which embraces the 200 "in the smaller towns of the Colony," receiving grants ranging from £15.

(20) Dyer, *ibid.* p. 19.

(21) This grant dates from August, 1883; it was then £100.

(22) M. 4—Miscellaneous Expenditure (ii.) Grants-in-aid of School Libraries, Prizes and Approved Education Exhibits [only]. [P.C.—11a—1927—(O.F.S.).]

SUMMARY OF THE EXISTING PROVINCIAL GRANTS ON THE
£ FOR £ PRINCIPLE.

PROVINCE	Maximum	Minimum	Exception(s)
Cape... ..	135	15	See Appendix See Paragraph VIa. See Paragraph VI.
Natal... ..	No such	grant	
O.F.S. (O.K.C.) i. Wards... ..	50	10	
ii. Towns... ..			Not awarded Germiston
and Villages... ..	50	25	
Transvaal... ..	60	25	

until the passing of Act No. 10 of 1911 . . . "all consignments and correspondence from the State Library [Pretoria] enjoy[ed] exemption from postage."⁴

IV. CENSUS OF SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS.

"In order to lessen the serious disability imposed on scientific work in South Africa by the deficiency of the libraries in respect of scientific literature 'A List of Serial Publications [scientific and technical] available for consultation in the libraries and scientific institutions of the Union' was compiled for the Advisory Board of Industry and Science by Mr. A. C. G. Lloyd, and published in 1921. This catalogue proved exceedingly useful, but has now fallen out of date, and the Research Grant Board has arranged for the publication of a new and enlarged edition."⁵ Cape Town, 1927.

V. CAPE PROVINCE.—Establishment, etc., and Grants.

The Molteno "Memorandum of Regulations under which it is proposed to encourage the formation and proper management of Public Libraries in the smaller towns of the Colony" has naturally undergone some modification in the fifty odd years that have elapsed since its publication. There has been an increase in the maximum and a decrease in the minimum amount of available grant; £150 instead of £100, and £15 in place of £25. The revised *Regulations*⁶ now read:

(4) Transvaal Law No. 18, 1898.

(5) Report of the Research Grant Board . . . 1926. Pretoria, 1927, p. 5. [U.G. 43—27.]

(7) [A.2; A. 2A; and finally A. 2B—'74], (as passed by the [Cape] House of Assembly, 15th June, 1874), Appendix to Votes and Proceedings; promulgated by G.N.—No. 442, 1874 in Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette, Tuesday, September 1st, 1874.

(8) Promulgated by G.N. No. 878 in Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette, Nov. 7th, 1899, p. 2329 [Regulations 2-6]; as amended by G.N. No. 508 in the Gazette, May 17th, 1904, p. 1876 [Regulation 1]. Grant increased to £150 on the motion of the Colonial Secretary. [Cape Votes and Proceedings, 1903, pp. 454-5]. A transitional stage may be traced: G.N. No. 1188, in the Gazette, Dec. 6th, 1892, p. 2402. In 1923 the P.C. decided to reduce the annual grants by 10 per cent. until further notice "in view of the necessity for economising in Provincial Expenditure wherever possible." [A.O. 5th September, 1923].

1. That the Government Annual Grant shall not exceed the annual average amount raised by subscriptions and donations during the three preceding years, or, in the case of new Libraries, shall not exceed the amount of subscriptions and donations received for the first year or average for two years, but in no case to be more than £150 per annum, provided that these grants shall be made out of the moneys voted annually by Parliament for the purpose.

2. That no aid shall be given when the aforesaid average contributions do not exceed £15.

3. That where a Public Library has for not less than two years received no Annual Grant from the Government by reason of the fact that its subscriptions and donations did not average an amount of £15 per annum, such Library may be treated as a new Library for the purpose of the Annual Grant; provided that in the calculation of the first year's grant to an Institution recognised as a new Library under the foregoing conditions arrear subscriptions shall not be deemed to form part of the revenue of the Library for such year.

4. That whenever the Library is open the public be admitted free, and allowed access to all works of reference, and to all books in the Library. Access to newspapers and periodicals shall be under such conditions as each Library Committee may determine.

(For the purposes of this Regulation, a newspaper shall be defined as a publication, with or without illustrations, published not less than once a week, and reporting or commenting upon current news of any kind. All publications issued fortnightly, monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly, shall be considered as periodicals.)

5. That a Report be presented to the Government annually, showing the amount raised by subscription during the year, and generally the state of the finances of the institution, the circulation of books, and the number and description of those purchased, acquired or sold during the year.⁹

(9) In 1906 it was "discovered that some Library Authorities utilise the ordinary funds for purposes other than the purchase of books or expenditure which can fairly be regarded as incidental to library management, e.g., one library used its funds for the purpose of giving lectures." [Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th September, 1906. Circular No. 35]. The rule is now enforced that at least three quarters of the Provincial grant shall be spent upon books, and from 1st January, 1922, one-quarter of this on works of an educative and non-ephemeral nature. "It has been found that libraries have spent the Government grant almost wholly on fiction . . . and have neglected the building up of a collection of representative works of a more solid nature." . . . "For the year 1922 and onwards, it will be necessary for the library secretaries to show the total amounts spent on fiction and non-fiction separately." . . . [A.O. 1. Nov., 1921. Circular No. 116.]

These Regulations correspond very nearly with the Transvaal version. The main differences lie in the maximum and minimum amounts of the grant, which are the £100 and £25 respectively of the original Molteno Memorandum.¹⁰ The fourth Transvaal Regulation is also important and one not found in the Cape version: "The subscribers only shall have the right—subject to such regulations as may be defined at each Library—of borrowing books from the Library. No other person may remove books."

VI. NATAL, and ORANGE FREE STATE.—Administration and Grants.

The administration of libraries, although entrusted to the Provincial Administrations by Act 10 of 1913, continued to be the care of the Government until April, 1922. A change had been foreshadowed the previous year in the "Report of the Controller and Auditor-General," 1920-21: "Besides the National Libraries and Museums, a number of Libraries and Museums in Natal and the Orange Free State are subsidised, which it was apparently contemplated by the Financial Relations Act, 10 of 1913, should be borne by the respective Provincial Administrations. The amount paid in Natal was £3,632 8s. 6d., and the Free State £1,337 10s." Durban (£375), Maritzburg (£300), Bloemfontein (£300), Harrismith (£37 10s.), and *others* to the amount of £215 8s. 8d., benefited in those halcyon days.¹¹

In 1921/2, Vote 20—Interior—included £4,632 13s. for Libraries (excluding Museums); for the year 1922/3 the figure had fallen to £3,400, solely for the National Libraries: the South African Public Library, £1,900, and the State Library, £1,500.

VIa.

To-day, "apart from an amount of £100 each to the Natal Society's Library [Maritzburg] and the Durban Municipal Library in respect of the Juvenile Sections, no grants-in-aid towards public libraries are paid from [Natal] Provincial Funds."¹²

(10) See Transvaal Debates in the Legislative Council during the First Session, 1903, Johannesburg, 1903, p. 274, for a reference to the £ for £ principle. These "Regulations" do not apply to Johannesburg or Pretoria. [G.N. 92 of 1902. (Transvaal) Government Gazette, 29th March, 1902, p. 356]. Compare both versions of Regulation 4 with sect. 22 of S.A.P.L. Act 33-'93 (C.).

(11) [U.G. 43-'21] p. 166; see also note 22, *infra*.

(12) Natal A.O. 5/2548 and N.P. 2-1927, p. 29: General, item X.—Miscellaneous and Incidental Expenses (including Libraries [£200] and *ex gratia* payments): £500.

VII. TRANSVAAL.—Exemption from Rates.

The Transvaal Libraries enjoy fewer privileges in this respect than any other area under review. At present the State Library, Pretoria, is alone exempt.¹⁴ Before the Johannesburg Library became a municipal institution (1924) the Town Council granted it exemption; since, however, *e.g.*, in 1927, rates amounting to £1,700 were paid! One concession, however, may be noted: "The Council may . . . grant and render . . . municipal service without charge."¹⁵

VIII. Grants.

As in the case of Natal and the Free State, so too in the Transvaal, Provincial "grants were suspended in 1922 and have not yet been fully restored. To-day the maximum grant to any Transvaal Library is £60. An exception was made in the case of Germiston, which now receives £200 on account of its country distribution. Prior to 1922 Johannesburg Library received £1,300 a year from the Provincial Council and Germiston £340; both Libraries being exempted from the £100 maximum. Johannesburg Library is now entirely free and municipally supported and receives no Provincial grant."¹⁶ Nor do the Transvaal "Estimates" for 1928-9 show any signs of an increase.¹⁷

These Provincial Grants, as noted in paragraph six, were paid from the Votes of the Department of the Interior, but the Union Government decided to make no further provision after 1921, and the Provincial Administrations have not seen their way to take over the liability.

PARLIAMENTARY, PROVINCIAL, COUNCIL, AND DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES.—RULES, Etc.

PARLIAMENTARY.—

Union.—Rules relating to the Appointment, Office and Duties of the Joint Parliamentary Librarian of the Union Parliament. (Rules adopted by the House of Assembly on the 29th May, 1913, and by the Senate on the 7th June, 1913).²⁶

Southern Rhodesia.—"Rules of Parliamentary Library."²⁷

(14) (A.I.) P.O. 6-'12 (T.) (Crown Lands).

(15) (79,16) P.O. 11-'26 (T.).

(16) From information kindly supplied by Mr. Stirling, Librarian, Germiston. In connection with country book distribution; Mr. Stirling's work; one purpose of the visit of the Carnegie Delegates, etc., see *Die Burger*, Cape Town, 14th September, 1928: "Meer Boeke op Platteland," and "Die Platteland se Boeke."

(17) T.P. 3—1928: £1,500.

(26) Parliament of the Union of South Africa.

Standing Orders of the House of Assembly; vol. 1. Public Business. Cape Town. 1924, pp. 207-12.

(27) Debates of the Legislative Assembly. Salisbury; vol. 5, 2nd December, 1926, col. 1105-8.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

(Primarily intended for the use of the Administrators, Members of the Executive Committees and the Members of the P.C.).

Cape (Cape Town).—No published rules.

Ex-officio Librarian: The Clerk of the Provincial Council.

Natal (Pietermaritzburg).—No published rules.

Ex-officio Librarian: The Clerk of the Provincial Council.

Orange Free State (Bloemfontein).—No published rules.

Ex-officio Librarian: The Clerk of the Provincial Council.

Transvaal (Pretoria).—Library of the Provincial Council of Transvaal. Catalogue 1911. [Contains "Rules adopted by the P.C. during the First Session of the First Council, 1911."]²⁸

Ex-officio Librarian: The Clerk-Assistant of the Council.

DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES.

A number of them, together with other special libraries, will be found in *A List of Serial Publications*.⁵ I have already referred¹ to the libraries of the Department of Native Affairs (Maritzburg) and of the Cape Department of Education (Cape Town), whose accessions appear in the *Native Teachers' Journal* and the *Education Gazette* respectively.²⁹

HAND v. MACHINE TYPE COMPOSITION.

By ROBERT PARTRIDGE, A.L.A.

(Bermondsey Public Library).

Only within the last few years have printers of good repute overcome their reluctance to use mechanical substitutes for hand composition, but such perfection has been attained by mechanical typesetters that nowadays the production of some of the finest books is readily entrusted to them.

It has been argued that the great advances in printing due to the improvement of the printing press, improved methods of papermaking, the introduction of mechanical typesetting, and the rapid spread of photo-engraving, have resulted in a swift production and multiplication of cheaper books, rather than any great artistic improvement. Yet, of the FIFTY

(28) Pretoria. 1911. pp. 84-91.

(29) Department of Public Education, Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. (Pamphlet No. 17). Catalogue of the Library of the Education Office. Cape Town. 1902, pp. vi, 176. Union Department of Agriculture. Library (Pretoria).—The object of the Library is to provide as complete a collection of agricultural literature as possible for the purpose of reference. The library is open to the public during official hours, and books may be borrowed on certain conditions.

BOOKS on show in the 1925 Exhibition in America, twenty eight were set by machine.

It is said that machine composition obliterates the human element, being entirely lacking in individuality, just as the typewritten letter gives no clue to the personality of its author. A sentimental objection, surely: for apart from the Caxtons and Morrisses of the printing world, are we likely, as book-lovers, or seekers after information or recreation in books, to want to know the personality of each particular composer who sets up a book in type? Is not a typewritten letter, when carefully set out on the page, and neatly spaced and justified, infinitely preferable to one written in an irritating illegible scrawl? Further, although in machine composition, the actual work is done by mechanical means, human mind is governing all the while. Even were the objection true, what does it matter? We do not fear any battle of the machines as Samuel Butler describes in *Erewhon*.

The sole aim of composition, whether by hand or by machine, is perfection in setting out the type on the page with the best possible effect. Machines can now do this perfectly, quickly (and therefore cheaply), and with a mathematical exactitude that could never be attained by hand composition. The exquisite borders and ornaments produced by the Linotype, the gracefully cut types in use both in the Monotype and the Linotype, although mechanically imprinted, have been designed and cut by typographical artists, and reveal much individuality.

Throughout all the stages of the book-printing press, from the time of its institution, the chief object has been to lessen the cost of printing. Whether it has been an increase in speed of production, a lessening of operative power, a simplification of mechanism, a strengthening of the fundamental parts, a lightening of the pressman's work, or even a bettering of the quality of the printing—the ultimate aim has been the same—to lessen the cost of printing. After speed was attained there came a demand for presswork of the finest quality, without a sacrifice of the quantity produced. This brief historical résumé is a potent argument for machine composition, since where hand composition is employed it must necessarily follow that the work will cost more, will be slower, and probably not such a large quantity will be produced.

In hand composition, misplaced types due to bad sorting, make the work of correction costly and time-absorbing. With machine composition there is no temptation to use worn

or battered types, since a new sharp face is used once only, then put in the melting pot, for it is obviously cheaper to manufacture new type at the rate of, say, 20,000 "ens" or letters an hour than to distribute them, after use, at a speed of only 5,000 an hour. Further, corrections can be made on machine almost as easily as if set by hand.

Nowadays, really beautiful books can be set up in type, corrected, and be ready to be locked up in galleys before the hand compositor has had time to wipe his glasses before starting on the second chapter of his book. And the machine-composed book will sometimes take the palm for accuracy and beauty of production.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT,

DEAR SIR,—In the May issue of the "Library Assistant" there appears a letter over the signatures of Messrs. Firth and Marr, which contains several serious mis-statements regarding the Library Association.

The proposed plan of amalgamation between this Association and the Association of Assistant Librarians is printed in full earlier in the "Library Assistant" (pages 100-102) and is preceded by a considered statement from the Council of the A.A.L. Lest, however, there be assistants whose judgment may be influenced by the tenor of the letter written by Messrs. Firth and Marr, I think the following facts should be pointed out:—

1. That the Registration Fee is a single payment of 10/6—made but once in a lifetime.
2. That no one need apply to have his or her name entered on the Register unless he or she so wishes.
3. The Hon. Secretary of this Association in his article on "The new Bye-Laws and why they are necessary," never suggested that the "minimum subscription to the L.A. may be raised to a guinea and a half." What he did say, when speaking of the grading of subscriptions, was "I wish that the Council had made a guinea and a half subscription for librarians earning £450 and under."
4. The writers of the letter overlook the proposal made in paragraph 6 of the plan providing for a category of Transitional Members who shall "continue to pay the subscriptions which are demanded from members of the A.A.L. at the date of this agreement."

Yours truly,

GUY W. KEELING,
Secretary, the Library Association.

NEW MEMBERS:

Associates.—Stanley Arthur Parker (Hornsey); Leslie William Parfitt (Bath).

Members.—John S. Borthwick, Cyril L. Chalkley, Frederick J. Dearmer, Sydney W. Kitchener, William H. C. Moreton, Francis P. Parker

(Hornsey); William A. H. S. Smith (Chatham); Grahame Wells (Wimbledon); Kathleen Joan Talboys, John Fry, Audrey E. Hallett (Bath); Harry Earl Whiteley (Grimsby).

North-Eastern Division.—Miss J. Graham (Gateshead); Miss O. H. Thurlow (Durham County).

North-Western Division: Associates.—Miss M. Schofield (Heywood); Miss F. Heywood (Warrington); Joseph K. Meador (Darwen).

Members.—Miss L. C. Firth (Heywood); Miss U. L. Taylor (Manchester); Bessie Stukins and Gladys Wood (Radcliffe).

South-Eastern Division.—Miss B. P. Raphael (Worthing).

APPOINTMENTS.

*Mr. R. D. HILTON SMITH, Librarian-in-Charge of the Ashburton Library, Croydon, since its inauguration in 1927, and formerly on the staffs of the Kensington, St. Pancras, and Richmond Public Libraries, to be Deputy Librarian, Hendon, at a salary of £360—£20—£440. Mr. Hilton Smith is, and has been for many years, the Honorary Secretary of the Education Committee of the A.A.L.; he possesses the six certificates of the Library Association (one with merit) and five Advanced Certificates of general, literary, and commercial character from the College of Preceptors, Royal Society of Arts, National Union of Teachers, and London County Council. He has nearly completed a thesis on "Aids to Readers." The final selection included Messrs. *K. G. Hunt, B.A., F.L.A. (Tottenham), *C. M. Jackson (Birmingham), and *F. A. Richards (Darlington).

Miss E. H. COLWELL, Assistant-in-Charge of School Libraries, Hendon, to be Children's Librarian, Hendon. Miss Colwell possesses the Diploma of the School of Librarianship. Salary, £240 + £20, to £340 per annum.

*Miss E. E. PYMAN, A.L.A., formerly Chief Assistant, Ipswich Public Libraries, to be Senior Assistant, Hendon. Miss Pyman possesses all six certificates of the L.A., and the Cambridge Senior Local. Salary, £240 + £20, to £340 per annum. The other selected candidates were *Miss M. Alexander, Norwich; Alexander Dow, Bolton; and *Miss L. A. Johnson, Fulham.

DEWSBURY.—*E. J. HOBBS, formerly Senior Assistant, Tunbridge Wells, to be Assistant Librarian, Dewsbury. Salary, £156 per annum.

WILLESDEN.—*Miss EMILY SKINNER, formerly Assistant Librarian, Newport, to be Chief Assistant, Kilburn Public Library.

NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB LIBRARY.—*Correction.*—Mr. H. W. ACOMB, M.A. (Cantab.), has been appointed Librarian of the National Liberal Club at a salary of £500, increasing to £650. He was formerly on the staff of Trinity College Library, Cambridge, and was subsequently County Librarian of Cornwall and County Librarian of Shropshire.

The other candidates in the final selection were Mr. E. A. Hinton, B.A. (Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society) and Mr. K. G. Hunt, B.A. (Tottenham Public Libraries).

[*Mr. Hinton, whose name we gave last month as that of the successful candidate, subsequently withdrew his application.* HON. ED.]

*Those marked with an asterisk are Members of the A.A.L.

BARODA AND ITS LIBRARIES

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"The Baroda Library System is a most admirable organisation."—Dr. E. A. Baker, Director, School of Librarianship, London University.

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"An excellent presentment of the library work done in this pioneer Indian State. Mr. Dutt is to be congratulated on his work, which shows a fine enthusiasm and one which those of us who have known and who have liked India would desire to see manifest itself in the other native states and also in those controlled by the Government of India."—*Library Review*.

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